

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04

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TAGS: SENV, PFOR, OCON, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ PROPOSALS ON INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING,
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 243238, (B) KRATZER'S LETTER TO SALMON
AND SIEVERING, 12/18/73

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT POINTS WITH FONOFF BROUGHT OUT THAT
GOJ FAVORS HOLDING MINISTERS' MEETING IN MID-MAY, AFTER ALL
PROBLEMS WITH DIET OUT OF WAY. HOWEVER, CONSULTATIONS AT EXPERT
LEVEL BEFORE NAIROBI MEETINGS HAVE EMERGED AS POSSIBLE WAY OF
ENSURING CONSULTATIONS ON UNEP. GOJ WELCOMED USG MODIFICATION OF
ARTICLE FIVE AND INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY REGARDING ARTICLE
FOUR, FOR WHICH IT WILL PRESENT ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE IN
JANUARY. OVERALL, CONSENSUS WITHIN GOJ IN FAVOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AGREEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE EMERGED FOR FIRST TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL, SCICOUNS CALLED ON
YUKINORI WATANABE, HEAD, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY DIVISION, MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CONCERNING TIMING OF INTER-MINISTERIAL CON-
FERENCE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MINISTRIES,
WATANABE SAID THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MIKI WOULD PREFER
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LATTER PART OF MAY. SCICOUNS CONFIRMED BY DIRECT QUESTION THAT

THIS TIME WAS MIKI'S PERSONAL PREFERENCE, ALTHOUGH MIKI PRESENTLY IN MIDDLE EAST. AS REASON FOR LATE DATE, WATANABE REFERRED TO CONCERN THAT MINISTER MIKI, WHO ALSO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WOULD STILL BE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN DIET DEBATES END OF APRIL.

2. IN DISCUSSION, POSSIBILITY OF PRELIMINARY MEETING OF EXPERTS IN JANUARY, BEFORE MEETINGS IN NAIROBI ON UNEP, EMERGED. WATANABE SAID THAT WHETHER OR NOT JAPANESE COULD BE PREPARED FOR SUCH TALKS WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT MATTERS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND WHO WOULD COME. SCICOUNS REPLIED THAT THE ASSUMED THAT US AND JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS WOULD GO DIRECTLY ON TO NAIROBI, SO PREPARATIONS FOR NAIROBI DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE THOSE NECESSARY FOR BILATERAL MEETING. THIS WOULD APPLY ESPECIALLY TO FIRST MEETING, THAT OF UNEP MONITORING WORKING GROUP, STARTING FEBRUARY 11. WATANABE INDICATED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME CONSULTATION AT EXPERTS LEVEL PRIOR TO NAIROBI MEETINGS ON SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE SESSIONS. THIS SINCE CONFIRMED DIRECTLY WITH EA OFFICIALS. IF THIS APPROACH OF INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT AND CEQ, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED, TOGETHER WITH PREFERRED TIMING, TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED, AND PROBABLE PARTICIPANTS.

3. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WITH EA OFFICIALS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

4. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN REFTEL, SCICOUNS PRESENTED USG'S PROPOSED CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. WATANABE WELCOMED US WILLINGNESS TO DROP FIRST SENTENCE OF ARTICLE V, INDICATING THAT THIS MODIFICATION WAS SINE QUA NON TO ACHIEVEMENT OF JAPANESE CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF CONCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, WHICH NOW EXISTS AMONG AGENCIES CONCERNED.

5. FOLLOWING SUGGESTION IN REFTEL, PARA THREE (B), SCICOUNS PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THIRD SENTENCE IN ARTICLE FOUR (THAT STARTING "IN THESE EFFORTS..." AND CONTAINING PARTS A THROUGH D). PREFACING HIS DISCUSSION WITH CAVEAT THAT NO FINAL CONCLUSIONS HAD YET BEEN REACHED INTERNALLY, WATANABE INDICATED THAT GOJ ALSO DEVELOPING SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS TO ARTICLE FOUR. HE INDICATED THAT RETENTION OF PRINCIPLE OF HARMONIZATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT THAT SOME SOFTENING OF WORDING UNDER CONSIDERATION. RE THIRD SENTENCE, IF RETAINED, GOJ WOULD PROPOSE LESS DEFINITIVE WORDING. HE SUGGESTED THAT "POLLUTER-PAYS PRINCIPLE" BE MOVED FROM ARTICLE FOUR TO PREAMBLE EMPLOYING REVISED WORDING STILL BEING DEVELOPED. HE ALSO PROPOSED DELETION OF PHRASE ON CONSULTATIONS FROM LAST SENTENCE IN ARTICLE FOUR. HE CONCLUDED HIS PLEA FOR FLEXIBILITY BY RE-EMPHASIZING INFORMALITY OF HIS SUGGESTIONS,

SAYING THAT FONOFF WOULD PROPOSE WORDING IN JANUARY.

6. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGED BY CONSENSUS WHICH HAS NOW EMERGED IN FAVOR OF CONCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, WHICH ALSO CONFIRMED IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EA OFFICIALS, AND WITH APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF GOJ TO SEEK ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION THAT WOULD PRESERVE SPIRIT OF ECONOMIC PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE IV. WHILE EMBASSY WOULD PREFER EARLIER DATE FOR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE THAN NOW BEING PROPOSED BY GOJ, WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE DIFFICULTIES EXPLAINED BY WATANABE, AND RECOMMEND THAT THIS TIMING BE ACCEPTED, TOGETHER WITH EARLY EXPERTS LEVEL MEETING FOR CONSULTATION ON UNEP.
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